



Welcome to the *Green Power News Update*. This is a summary of the stories that ran during **July, 2015**. New stories are added throughout the month to make sure you always know what is happening in our fast-changing industry. Check back often to see what's new!

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[Previous issues](#)

[In this issue:](#)

## Green Power

- Webinar: Smart Rate Design for a Smart Future
- Nonprofit sustainability organizations launch solar initiative
- Webinar explores strategies for bringing solar power to low-income homes
- California Energy Commission hosts solar homes seminars
- Learn about community choice aggregation from recorded, upcoming webinars
- Find Solutions For Municipal Problems, Projects
- DOE wind siting webinar available online
- Reliability Standard: I Do Not Think it Means What you Think it Means
- New Energy Department Partnership Creates Solar Bridges to Energy Security
- The Green Power Network summary for June 2015
- Power to the People
- Tribal leader forum, renewables workshop scheduled in New Mexico

## Reports and Studies

- What's Green Worth?
- NREL Report and Webinar: Renewable Electricity Use by ICT Industry
- Electricity Generation Projects: Additional Data Could Improve Understanding of the Effectiveness of Tax Expenditures
- State of the States: A New Perspective on the Wealth of our Nation
- Energy business, policy, technology focus of Haas Institute
- Berkeley Lab Findings on Net Metering and the Future of Distributed Solar
- Free webinar explores community choice aggregation
- Setting the Renewable Energy Policy Agenda: Insights from ACORE's 2015 National Renewable Energy Policy Forum

## Funding

- July 2015—DOE Notice of Intent to Issue Funding Opportunity
- Weekly federal funding opportunities update

## Green Power

### Webinar: Smart Rate Design for a Smart Future

Advancements in technology—distributed generation, electric vehicles, and “smart” appliances, combined with advanced metering infrastructure and more sophisticated utility monitoring systems—will both demand and allow a more refined method of designing the rates charged to customers. Traditional flat (\$/kwh) rate design no longer serves consumers or society best. A more progressive approach with bidirectional rates and time-varying—and, ultimately, dynamic—elements can help jurisdictions meet environmental goals and minimize adverse social impacts, while allowing utilities to recover their authorized revenue requirements.

*Source: Regulatory Assistance Project, 7/23/15*

### Nonprofit sustainability organizations launch solar initiative

The Solar Outreach Partnership (SolarOPs) is designed to help accelerate solar energy adoption on the local level by providing timely and actionable information to local governments. Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) SunShot Initiative, SolarOPs achieves its goals through a mix of educational workshops, peer-to-peer sharing opportunities, research-based reports, and online resources.

To perform the work of SolarOPs, DOE selected teams led by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability USA. These organizations and their teams help local governments take a comprehensive approach to solar energy deployment.

*Source: Solar Outreach Partnership, 7/27/15*

### Webinar explores strategies for bringing solar power to low-income homes

**Aug. 12, 2015**

**11:00 am 12:00 pm PDT**

Closing the Solar Income Gap: Greater Access, Proven Policies, & Community Engagement is a free webinar presented by the DOE Sunshot Initiative.

Continued and precipitous cost reduction combined with improved financing options and regulatory processes, the solar boom continues with a record 40GW of solar power added to the world’s grids in 2014 bringing the global cumulative capacity to over 178GW. The U.S. also celebrated a record year with the largest PV installation in a single year. However, the benefits of such solar momentum seem yet to spread across the spectrum of U.S. household incomes. More than 49 million households that earn less than \$40,000 of income per year make up 40 percent of all U.S. households, but represents less than 5 percent of solar installations.

To contribute towards and accelerate the effort of bringing more solar energy to low-income communities, [ICLEI Local Governments For Sustainability USA](#) will convene a panel of experts and practitioners in this webinar to

discuss and share existing low-income solar projects, policies, and best practices with the aim to encourage solar power growth in underserved communities who can benefit from solar energy the most yet have the least means to go solar without targeted policy and financing support.

*Source: ICLEI Governments for Sustainability, 7/27/15*

### **California Energy Commission hosts solar homes seminars**

The California Energy Commission will be conducting two training seminars on the New Solar Homes Partnership (NSHP). This is an opportunity for all interested parties to learn more about the NSHP program, meet the staff administering the program, and ask questions.

The NSHP program is a \$400 million solar program which provides incentives for the installation of photovoltaic (PV) solar systems on new, energy-efficient homes in California's investor-owned utility electric service territories.

These seminars will be conducted by Energy Commission staff members and will include information on:

- Updates to the NSHP Guidebook (Ninth Edition)
- NSHP energy efficiency requirements
- NSHP Online Application Tool - submitting applications and payment claims electronically
- NSHP CECPV Calculator

The seminars will be useful to solar retailers and installers, homeowners, builders/developers, HERS Raters, energy consultants, and all other parties involved in the design and construction of a new home with a solar energy system.

Parties and the public may attend the Public Workshop in person at the above location or by telephone and/or by computer via our ["WebEx" web conferencing system](#).

*Source: California Energy Commission, 7/27/15*

### **Learn about community choice aggregation from recorded, upcoming webinars**

View the recording of *Monterey Bay CA, CCA Feasibility Study*, if you missed the webcast.

Then join the next webinar, *Marin, California, Community Choice Aggregation Process & Lessons Learned*, live on Wednesday August 12, 2015 at 10 AM MT.

The Marin Clean Energy (MCE) program was the first to successful Community Choice Aggregation in California. During this webinar Justin Kudo will discuss the process they followed and lessons learned from their experiences in operating MCE over the last five years. This is a follow-up to June's webinar discussing the "Monterey Bay California CCA Feasibility Study".

Topics will include:

- How the CCA was initially funded
- How the CCA is structured and managed including
- Organizational governance Scope of service
- The relationship between CCA programs and the utility distribution service

- Impacts to customers from multiple providers
- Relationship with PG&E
- How CCA affects the grid
- Various CCA Model Options including how the JPA Model works and why it was selected
- The difference between Net Metering and Feed-In Tariff and how this fits into a CCA
- The types of energy solutions that are included in this CCA
- Energy mix and service options
- Energy efficiency services
- Local renewable energy development
- Type of marketing to make people aware of the changes to service options and what was most effective
- Results of the CCA including economic impact to Marin County
- Lessons learned about the best practices for CCA programs

There is NO CHARGE to attend. [Troubleshooting](#) is available if you have problems seeing or hearing the webinar.

*Source: Municipal Sustainability Forum, 7/22/15*

## Find Solutions For Municipal Problems, Projects

The Municipal Sustainability Forum offers online webinars that can be accessed at your convenience. View the recording of the free July 14 webinar, "Community Choice Aggregation Feasibility Study of Monterey Bay, CA," or register for the August 12 webinar "Marin CA Community Choice Aggregation Process & Lessons Learned." Best of all, these resources are free.

*Source: Municipal Sustainability Forum, 7/16/15*

## DOE wind siting webinar available online

Overcoming Wind Siting Challenges III: Public Acceptance and Land Use was the third in a series of WINDEXchange webinars covering wind siting challenges. It addressed public perceptions of wind projects and land use: how public opinions affect project development and how developers of successful projects address siting challenges. Attendees also heard about ongoing survey research of residents near U.S. wind facilities. Join Moderator Patrick Gilman from the U.S. Department of Energy moderated, and presenters included Ben Hoen from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Suzanne Tegen from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and Beth O'Brien from Pattern Energy.

*Source: DOE EERE WINDEXchange, 6/17/15*

## Reliability Standard: I Do Not Think it Means What you Think it Means

Much like the character Inigo Montoya who, in the movie *The Princess Bride* questions Vizzini's relentless repetition of the word "inconceivable," I find myself wondering whether many of those who insist over and over again that the EPA's Clean Power Plan (CPP) will "threaten reliability" actually understand how we've gone about setting, interpreting, and enforcing different reliability standards. This issue has been simmering for some time, including revealing analyses by The Brattle Group and Astrape Consulting, in the context of capacity market studies that have received far too little attention. Ironically, it is the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and other industry organizations, with their pleas for a "safety valve," that have invited a more public and critical examination of the topic. NERC is the regulatory authority charged with developing and enforcing numerous

reliability standards for the bulk power system. Here I will focus specifically on the resource adequacy standard, since it seems to be the standard on which NERC and others are most focused.

*Source: The Regulatory Assistance Project, 6/25/15*

## **New Energy Department Partnership Creates Solar Bridges to Energy Security**

Solar energy is becoming more accessible to Americans as the SunShot Initiative's goals come closer to fruition. However, solar is not yet affordable for every segment of the population. For those who live in low-income communities, solar energy is still viewed as a luxury. New programs are working to change that misconception and expand opportunities for Americans to use solar energy to power their homes while expanding job opportunities for all.

*Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 7/6/15*

## **The Green Power Network summary for June 2015**

This update summarizes recent green power marketing activity, including news and information on competitive green power marketing, utility green pricing programs, renewable energy certificates, green power purchasing, and related market activity. Additional information on green power markets and products, as well as links to the companies mentioned below, can be found on the U.S. Department of Energy's [Green Power Network website](#).

### **Upcoming Event**

- [Clean Energy Solution Center Webinar: Renewable Energy Tracking and Claims - Experience from the United States](#)

### **Updated Content and New Page**

- [Community Renewable Energy](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

### **News**

- [Cisco Signs Solar Deal for San Jose Headquarters with NRG](#)
- [Consumers Energy Develops 10-MW Community Solar Program in Michigan](#)
- [Rocky Mountain Power to Offer Solar Program in Utah](#)
- [Google to Build a Green Data Center in Alabama](#)
- [The City of Cologne \(MN\) Goes 100 Percent Solar](#)
- [Amazon and Community Energy Announce 80-MW Solar Project in Virginia](#)
- [The City of Arlington and GME Launch Green Power Program in Texas](#)

### **Renewable Energy RFPs**

- [Xcel Energy's Public Service Company of Colorado](#)
- [PacifiCorp](#)
- [PacifiCorp](#)
- [DTE Energy](#)
- [General Services Administration](#)

*Source: DOE Green Power Network, 6/30/15*

## Power to the People

### ***Why the rise of green energy makes utility companies nervous.***

Mark and Sara Borkowski live with their two young daughters in a century-old, fifteen-hundred-square-foot house in Rutland, Vermont. Mark drives a school bus, and Sara works as a special-ed teacher; the cost of heating and cooling their house through the year consumes a large fraction of their combined income. Last summer, however, persuaded by Green Mountain Power, the main electric utility in Vermont, the Borkowskis decided to give their home an energy makeover. In the course of several days, coordinated teams of contractors stuffed the house with new insulation, put in a heat pump for the hot water, and installed two air-source heat pumps to warm the home. They also switched all the light bulbs to L.E.D.s and put a small solar array on the slate roof of the garage.

*Source: The New Yorker, 6/29/15*

## Tribal leader forum, renewables workshop scheduled in New Mexico

**Albuquerque, NM**

**July 27-29**

The Tribal Energy Program and the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy have teamed up with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory to host two back-to-back events for Native American tribes interested in developing renewable energy on their lands. The Tribal Leader Forum on Tribal Energy and Economic

Development: Tribal Utility Formation will take place July 27, followed by the Community-Scale Tribal Renewable Energy Workshop July 28-29.

*Source: DOE Tribal Energy Program via Energy Services Bulletin, 7/6/15*

**Visit U.S. DOE EERE [Green Power Network](#) for more information.**

## Reports and Studies

### What's Green Worth?

#### *New Resources for Appraisers of Green and High-Performance Buildings*

The effect on a property's value is usually one of the first things to consider before a building is retrofitted with green features. For example, building owners might want to know – how much more will my office building be worth if I add a new state-of-the-art LED lighting system? What if the building has a green certification?

*Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 7/23/15*

## NREL Report and Webinar: Renewable Electricity Use by ICT Industry

**July 28, 2015**

**12–1:00 PM MDT**

Although the U.S. information and communication technology (ICT) sector is a large consumer of electricity, little is known regarding present and forecasted electricity acquisition and use, especially with regard to renewables. Jenny Heeter with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) will highlight the results of [NREL's recent report](#), which found that 113 ICT companies are purchasing 8.3 million MWh of renewable energy, representing 14% of the 59 million MWh of electricity consumed by those companies in 2014. Under a range of scenarios, renewable procurement by these 113 companies could increase to between 18.5 million and 37 million MWh in 2020.

The webinar will also provide case study examples of recent ICT company renewable purchasing. Ryan Schuchard with BSR, Future of Internet Power will discuss how U.S. data center operators are sharing knowledge about how to source renewable energy and working with suppliers to encourage proactive renewables procurement.

*Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 7/20/15*

## Electricity Generation Projects: Additional Data Could Improve Understanding of the Effectiveness of Tax Expenditures

### What GAO Found

Key state supports, in the form of state policies, aided the development of utility-scale electricity generation projects—particularly renewable ones—in most states, for fiscal years 2004 through 2013. For example, most states have a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) mandating that retail service providers obtain a specific amount of the electricity they sell from renewable energy sources, which creates additional demand for renewable energy. In addition, most states supported new renewable and traditional projects through regulatory policies that set electricity prices, which allowed utilities to recover the costs of building new projects or purchasing electricity from them.

*Source: Government Accountability, 4/28/15*

## State of the States: A New Perspective on the Wealth of our Nation

In 2015, the Ecological Deficit Day of the United States landed on July 14, according to our new report, "State of the States: A New Perspective on the Wealth of Our Nation," co-authored by Earth Economics.

"State of the States" details the Ecological Footprint and resource availability of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The report finds that resource consumption and availability varies dramatically state by state.

*Source: Global Footprint Network, 7/14/15*

## Energy business, policy, technology focus of Haas Institute

The Energy Institute at Haas brings together research and curricular programs on energy business, policy, and technology commercialization. The goal of [EI@Haas](#) is to bridge the gap between the frontiers of economic and scientific energy research and the marketplace.

Specifically, EI @ Haas:

- Trains the business and policy leaders of tomorrow to understand the market, policy, and technological challenges of the energy industries.

- Strives to ensure that energy and environmental policy is based on sound economic and business principles, backed by rigorous empirical evidence and the frontiers of economic research.
- Works with scientists to commercialize promising energy technologies, being mindful of the unique scientific and policy issues they will confront.

*Source: Haas School of Business, University of California Berkeley, 7/15/15*

## **Berkeley Lab Findings on Net Metering and the Future of Distributed Solar**

Last week, the U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab) released a report examining the relationship between electricity rate structure and the future of distributed solar, entitled *Net Metering and Market Feedback Loops: Exploring the Impact of Retail Rate Design on Distributed PV Deployment*.

The report looks at two opposing feedback effects between solar installations and electricity rates. The first, more widely-known, is the relationship between solar customers decreased reliance on the grid causing under-recovery of operating costs, which in turn causes electricity prices to rise. The rise in prices then leads to an increase in solar. The second, less well publicized relationship is that with time of use rates. When an increase in solar leads to a shift in the timing of peak pricing, solar adoption tends to decrease.

*Source: Berkeley Lab Electricity Markets and Policy Group via PV Solar Report, 7/13/15*

## **Free webinar explores community choice aggregation**

**July 14, 10 AM MT**

Monterey Bay Community Power (MBCP) is an effort on the part of all the cities and counties in the Santa Cruz-Monterey-San Benito area to initiate a Phase I Technical Feasibility Study to discover if, and how, the formation of a regional Community Choice Aggregation Project could benefit the region. The main goal of the Phase I Technical Feasibility Study is to analyze the electrical energy load data, develop four potential rate plans, broadly assess the local renewable energy and energy efficiency opportunities, calculate potential carbon reductions, and develop a preliminary implementation plan and budget.

*Source: Monterey Bay Community Power, 7/6/15*

## **Setting the Renewable Energy Policy Agenda: Insights from ACORE's 2015 National Renewable Energy Policy Forum**

Policy Pack Recaps ACORE's 2015 Renewable Energy Policy Forum Recommendations; Warns of a Serious Market Cliff for New Investments Absent Policy Action by Congress

As the Obama administration announces a 20 percent national goal for renewable electricity generation by 2030, today the American Council On Renewable Energy (ACORE) is releasing a public policy insights package for lawmakers and regulators. The package consists of two reports detailing sector recommendations for public officials working on renewable energy policy, and the impact of various policy scenarios on private sector investment in renewables.

"From Washington, D.C. to the 50 state capitals, energy policy is a matter of critical importance," said Dan Reicher, interim President and CEO of ACORE and Executive Director of the Steyer-Taylor Center for Energy Policy & Finance



at Stanford University. "With the right policies in place, the White House's announcement yesterday seeking 20 percent renewable electricity by 2030 is achievable. However, the question remains whether Congress and state lawmakers will back the impressive progress of the American clean energy industry over the last several years."

*Source: EIN Presswire, 7/2/15*

Find more [publications and webinars](#).

## Funding

### July 2015—DOE Notice of Intent to Issue Funding Opportunity

The Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs (Office of Indian Energy) intends to issue a funding opportunity announcement (FOA) entitled "Deployment of Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Projects on Indian Lands."

In support of the office's objectives, the DOE Office of Indian Energy is soliciting applications from Indian Tribes (including Alaska Native regional and village corporations), tribal energy resource development organizations, and tribal consortia to:

- Install clean energy and energy efficiency retrofit projects for tribal buildings (Area of Interest 1); and
- Deploy clean energy systems on a community-scale (Area of Interest 2).

Applications must include Tribal Council Resolution from each participating Indian Tribe, declaration (or resolution) from each tribal energy resource development organization or tribal consortium, and letter of commitment from all other project participants.

DOE plans to issue the FOA in or around the last calendar quarter in 2015. Applications will not be accepted through this notice of intent.

Register and create an account on the [EERE eXCHANGE](#) to receive notice when an FOA is issued and to submit an application. A [User Guide](#) for EERE eXCHANGE is available on the website after logging in to the system.

*Source: DOE Office of Indian Energy, 7/28/15*

### Weekly federal funding opportunities update

Seven opportunities totaling over \$61 million in federal financial assistance were released this week, soliciting proposals in the major program areas of:

- Academic Programs
- Alternative & Renewable Energy
- Biofuels
- Department of Defense Energy
- Environment
- Native Affairs

These opportunities have been released since July 21, 2015, and include those expiring by August 17, 2015.

*Source: Van Ness Feldman, 7/28/15*

**Find more [funding sources](#).**